

Tuesday, August 3, 1864.

**THE SOOKE DIGGINGS.**  
**RICH DISCOVERIES!**  
**EXTENSIVE GOLD FIELDS!**

LETTER FROM DR. BROWN.

The quiet which has reigned in this community during the last three months was completely dispelled Wednesday, and the whole city thrown into a state of excitement by the announcement of extensive surface diggings, of surprising richness, having been discovered by the Exploration party on the Sooke and Leech Rivers. The intelligence is contained in the following letter, addressed to the Exploration Committee, by Dr. Brown, the commander, which will undoubtedly be pressed with the liveliest interest.

The Committee met yesterday afternoon at Messrs. Franklin's office, and heard the statements of Mr. Foley, one of the party, a miner of considerable experience, who had just returned, and he confirmed the details furnished by Dr. Brown. Mr. Foley had with him specimens of the gold washed out. He represents that during the first four miles of their ascent of the Sooke River, they prospecting and found indications of gold, but nothing to pay; but thence up to the junction of a tributary flowing in from the westward, which they named Leech river, after Lieut. Leech, they found good diggings. Some of the prospecting being as high as 25 cents to the pan. The party, consisting of Messrs. Battle, Foley, Whymer and McDonald, ascended Leech River, a distance of 6 miles, when they reached the Forks of another stream, which they did not explore. On the banks and bars along Leech river the excellent prospects alluded to in Dr. Brown's letter were obtained. The pay-dirt, which it is believed will be found to yield a "bit" to the pan, is said to be five feet deep, and the diggings are supposed to be sufficient to give profitable employment to several thousand miners.

The Committee, with Corporal Battle, waited on His Excellency the Governor in the afternoon and consulted with him as to the immediate appointment of a Gold Commissioner, to receive mining licenses and records of claims, and also as to the law to be laid down in the statute book in relation to the diggings. His Excellency will appoint a Commissioner forthwith.

Despatch No. 4.  
V. I. EXPLORING EXPEDITION, Camp No. 4,  
Clem-ah-ah-ah, Indian Village,  
27th July, 1864.

**THE V. I. EXPLORING EXPEDITION.**

GENTLEMEN:—I have the honor to announce for your satisfaction the safe arrival of both the detached party, which I sent from Sooke, across country, bringing intelligence the most satisfactory to me, and the results of which cannot fail to prove of the highest importance to the prosperity of the colony and the further up-building of the city of Victoria.

1. The formal reports of Lieutenant Leech I shall forward by the first opportunity after its completion, but the intelligence I have to communicate is of too important a nature to bear delay in forwarding to you, even for one hour. Accordingly I have resolved to despatch a special messenger with a letter and the accompanying specimens, and after mature deliberation have selected Corporal Battle, R. E., as one on whose fidelity and prudence I can place the most implicit reliance. This will necessitate a delay of about three days, but this was rendered necessary at all events to recruit the party after their fatigue, and Mr. Leech, having severely burnt his foot, it will be fully that time before he is again able to take the field. To-day I will remove to a convenient place near the Quamichan Indian village, on the Nanaimo trail where wood and water is convenient, and salmon is caught on the River west.

2. The discovery which I have to communicate is the finding of gold on the banks of one of the Forks of the Sooke River, about 12 miles from the sea in a straight line, and in a locality never hitherto reached by white men, in all probability never even by natives. I forward an eighth of an ounce, or thereabouts, of the coarse scale gold, washed out of twelve pans of dirt, in many places 20 feet above the river, and with no tools but a shovel and a gold pan. The lowest prospect obtained was 3 cents to the pan, the highest \$1 to the pan, and work like that with the rocker would yield what pay you can better calculate than I can, and the development of which, with what results to the Colony you may imagine. The diggings extend for fully 25 miles, and would give employment to more than 4000 men. Many of the claims would take 8 to 10 men to work them. The diggings could be wrought with great facility by fluming the bed of the stream. The banks and benches can be sliced or rocked. The timber on the banks will supply to the whip saw all the timber that can ever be required for the mining purposes. The country abounds with game and the "honest miner" never need fear that he can find food enough without much trouble. A saw mill could be erected at the head waters for say at the Forks of "Leech's River," and lumber for flumes, pumps, sluices, &c., floated down to the miners, and on the whole the value of the diggings cannot be easily overestimated.

I may add, that there is any amount of "five cent dirt," and with proper tools the average prospect is about one bit the pan. The gold will return to camp No. 24 immediately, and I trust that you will deal liberally with the men when the diggings employ the number of people they are calculated to support, and that the expedition will not be forgotten in the Governor's proclamation about the discovery of gold-felds. I announce this event with the most lively satisfaction, and trust that our labors are meeting with the approval of the colony. I will communicate the discovery at greater

length as soon as possible. Lieut. Leech sent a letter to me with an Indian, and I have no doubt but that you have received before this. I announce the discovery, and close a small prospect of gold taken further down the river.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,  
Your very obedient servant,  
ROBT. BROWN,  
Commander and Government Agent of the Expedition.

**THE SOOKE DIGGINGS.**

The excitement which prevailed yesterday in regard to the newly discovered alluvial diggings at Sooke has in no way abated. One bears no other subject canvassed, and the usual exclamation made by persons meeting one-another on the streets, respecting the state of the weather, has for the nonce quite given place to the interrogatory, "are you off to Sooke?" Sooke is in every body's mouth—every body's thoughts; and the general feeling on the subject is that if only one quarter of what has been represented to be the case can be verified, the beneficial results to Victoria and the Island generally, will be incalculable. A few days are now all that is required to convince the sceptical whether a delusion has been practised or not. For our own part we cannot for a moment doubt the statements of the discoverers. The occasional hasty prospecting of a portion of the country during the rambles of the exploring party, must necessarily convey but an imperfect estimate of the actual wealth of the whole country traversed, yet sufficient evidence has been given by the explorers to create a belief in the richness of that section of the country; and the faith which has already planted itself in the public mind is manifesting itself in all directions.

We have less hesitation in avowing our belief in the mineral wealth of Sooke District, since none can be injured by sharing in it. The shortness of the distance and its accessibility from Victoria, will soon cause provisions and supplies to be placed within reach of prospectors at low rates, and at this season of the year camping out in the open air is neither attended with risk or inconvenience. A few days will suffice, to set all present doubts at rest, and should the result equal present anticipations it is safe to predict that trails will be immediately opened to the mining region, while private speculation and enterprise will bring all the requirements of the miner to his camp door.

The Exploration Committee met again yesterday, and had a consultation with Gov. Kennedy on the provisions of the laws to regulate mining in the District. His Excellency after expressing his views desired the Committee to frame such suggestions as they wished to make and submit them to him, when a code of regulations should be immediately promulgated. This was done, and the mining regulations adopted by the Governor appear in this morning's edition of the Colonist.

A notice also appears reserving all Crown Lands unoccupied or unoccupied lying between the S. W. corner of Shawnigan District to the S. W. corner of the Government Reserve at Point Owen on San Juan Harbor, excepting only the districts already surveyed. A Gold Commissioner has been appointed who will proceed at once to Sooke provided with the requisite six months' licenses to be supplied to the miners.

During the whole of yesterday small companies of gold seekers with their packs were seen moving off to the new El Dorado, some in canoes or boats, and others on foot with pack horses to carry their tools, provisions and blankets. From conversations which we have had with Corporal Battle and others who are conversant with the country we are inclined to believe that those who have reflected land travel in preference to the water route, have acted the more wisely. A large portion of the Sooke trail can be taken, and by striking through at the right place, the most difficult portion of the track which the coast route entails, avoided. The accounts all agree upon the fact that the first four or five miles of the ascent of Sooke River from the harbor are excessively heavy and tedious travelling, and next to impracticable to those who are not experts at the work.

Mr. Foley himself started last night for Sooke harbor, where he will probably remain for a day or two to afford every information in his power to those who may be on the way, and it would be well for those who are proceeding this evening to the opportunity of accompanying him up to Leech River. Mr. Foley's camp as announced in the notice which appears elsewhere, will be recognised by a white flag with a maltese cross.

We know of several experienced prospectors who started off on the reception of the first intelligence received from the exploring party, that good paying bars existed from 5 to 12 miles up the river, and we may now be looking for accounts from these men of the success which they have met with. In the meantime those who are compelled to remain in our already depopulated city will be on the tip-toe of excitement, and anxious expectation for the next news, which it is earnestly hoped will all confirm the bright visions that the last 48 hours have tended to conjure up. There is, and can be no dog in the manger, selfishness in the matter—what benefits the individual will benefit the mass, and when the public weal so closely interwoven with individual prosperity the hardy prospector who may be toiling through thickets and swamps, over rocks and crags may feel assured that the best wishes of those he has left behind accompany him, and that should success crown his efforts, he not only fills his own coffers but becomes to a certain extent a public benefactor.

CONSTABULARY FOR SOOKE.—Sergeant Hill having resigned his position in the Police force, which he has held for nearly two years with credit to himself, and to the entire satisfaction of his superiors, has been appointed chief constable at the mining district of Sooke, and together with Mr. Abson, formerly of the Police, who has also been appointed to the rural constabulary, accompanied the gold commissioner on Saturday to the scene of their labor.

Further Reports from Dr. Brown's Party.  
A messenger arrived Sunday evening from Cowichan, with another dispatch from Dr. Brown, dated the 29th July, enclosing the individual reports of Corporal Leech, Sergeant Meade, and Ronald McDonald, respecting the recent discoveries at Sooke, together with a map framed by Sergt. Meade, of the Sooke and Leech rivers. These reports, we learn, fully corroborate all that we have yet heard of the wealth of the district. They affirm that the average of the prospects taken on the latter river equalled 12 1/2 cents to the pan, while some prospects yielded as high as \$11! The map of the two rivers, where the auriferous deposits were discovered, will prove invaluable to the miners proceeding to the locality. It traced out, we understand, with considerable care, and shows the different points of encampment of the exploring party. Dr. Brown was waiting for Corporal Battle, and the other two men, when the party would proceed to Nanaimo. The Exploration Committee will meet this afternoon; in the mean time the report map, &c., may be seen at the office of the Secretary.

FORM OF LICENSE.—The following will be the form of License issued by the Acting Gold Commissioner for Sooke District:  
VANCOUVER ISLAND GOLD LICENSE.  
No. \_\_\_\_\_

Be it remembered that I, \_\_\_\_\_ having paid to me the sum of Five Dollars, on account of the Crown Revenue, I hereby license him for the space of Six Months from the date hereof, and no longer, and subject to the regulations published in this behalf by His Excellency the Governor, to dig, search for and remove Gold on and from such Crown Lands within the Colony of Vancouver Island as I shall assign to him for that purpose.

This License must be produced whenever demanded by me or by any other person acting under the authority of the Government.

Signed, \_\_\_\_\_  
Acting Gold Commissioner.

**More About Sooke Diggings.**

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**Good News from Sooke.**

PREVIOUS REPORTS CONFIRMED!!  
Accounts from Old Prospectors.

MONDAY MORNING, Aug. 1.

We are gratified to be able to place before our readers the following authentic particulars, from a party of gentlemen who have just returned from a prospecting tour on Sooke river. The names of the party are a sufficient guarantee for the reliability of the intelligence.

Messrs. Thos. Moffat, Chas. Mc K Smith, John Spencer, and Turner, returned this morning by the Enterprise from Sooke. They bring the following highly gratifying news from the new gold fields of that district. The party left Victoria on Wednesday morning last after intelligence had been received of the first prospects struck on the Sooke River. They proceeded by the trail to Sooke and then followed the river up northward.

For a new country, without any trail, the traveling was considered much easier than on the Fraser in the excitement of '58. At about 8 miles from the mouth of the river they prospecting a bar and got from one to three cents to the pan. They prospecting about 1000 feet longer, and from 200 to 300 feet wide. There is a good fall here and in most other places for fluming or sluicing.

For about 3 miles further there are a succession of cañons. Above this they again prospect a bar extending perhaps half a mile up the river, and from the different views taken of the same subject by different men, and the fulness or shortness of their statements.

I hear that parties are already starting for the mines, and I assure you we sincerely wish them all success. Doubtless many will be disappointed (as in all such cases) disappointed, but the gold is there whether they take it or not. I enclose a small sketch of the gold district, which may be of some assistance in finding the locality. This, with the gold specimens you will find, exhibit in some public place for the information of the adventurers.

Lieut. Leech's foot, I regret to say, is not better, but I hope before requiring to start (after Corporal Battle's return) he will be able to take the field.

I have, &c.,  
ROBERT BROWN,  
Comdr. and Govt. Agent of the Exp'dn.  
V. I. EXPLORATION COMMITTEE.

ENCLOSURE A.  
COWICHAN CAMP, No. 25,  
29th July, 1864.

Sir,—In obedience to orders dated Camp No. 15, 12th July, I took charge of the exploring party, and proceeded up Sooke river to Sooke Lake.

We reached the cañon at 4 p.m., on the 13th inst. I camped here all day on the 14th, for the purpose of enabling Mr. Foley to prospect. Mr. Whymer to complete a sketch of the cañon which he had commenced the previous day, and secondly, I wished to ascend a mountain which Battle had visited on the afternoon of the 13th, and reported that we could obtain bearings to several important points. On the afternoon of the 14th, when I returned to camp, Mr. Foley showed me the result of his prospecting which was very satisfactory indeed; the lowest yield being three cents, and the highest 25 cents to the pan. The gold was found on the right bank of the river, immediately above the cañon.

The altitude of the mountain visited is about 1,350 feet above the level of the sea. From camp 15, for about two and a-half miles up stream, the country is level, or slightly undulating; good soil. The country lying to the westward consists of conical hills covered with pines; very little level land. To the eastward, is very rugged, consisting of rocky eminences, very thinly timbered. The lake lies north of this point, distant about six or eight miles; the country between is very mountainous.

We reached Sooke Lake at 1 p.m. on Saturday the 16th instant, having made the journey in 2 1/2 days' easy travel. About 6 miles above the cañon the river forks one fork flowing from the N. W., the other coming from the Northward from the Lake; the latter stream being the smaller of the two.

On Sunday I did not move camp, but paid off three of the Indians and retained Lazare and engaged him to come as far as Cowichan at \$1 per day. Sent a letter to G. Crain, a stamper enclosing one to Dr. Brown containing the results of the prospecting below the forks. I made all up into a parcel and sent it to Mr. Muir at Sooke with directions to forward it with the least possible delay.

On Monday morning, at the suggestion of Mr. Foley I sent him with a party of three (Macdonald, Mead and Tomo) to the N. W. Fork mentioned above, for the purpose of prospecting it for gold, as we found good prospects up to the Forks, but having passed that point nothing further mentioning was found on the stream flowing from the Lake.

**Sooke and Leech Rivers.**

**DR. BROWN'S DISPATCH.**

**Testimony of Eye-Witnesses.**

The following is a copy of the dispatch from Dr. Brown, alluded to in yesterday's Colonist, which reached the Honorary Secretary of the Exploration Committee on Sunday evening:—

DISPATCH No. 5,  
V. I. EXPLORING EXPEDITION.  
COWICHAN,  
Camp No. 25, July 29th, 1864.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to enclose for your information, Lt. Leech's official report (A) of the labors of the expedition from Sooke Harbor to Cowichan Harbor, during the period in which he had the command during my temporary absence. I have requested him to keep a strict account as far as may be compatible with clearness, but to give as full statements as possible of the particulars attending the discovery of the placers of Sooke and Leech rivers. Though hitherto I have refrained from giving for publication more than a bare outline of the movements of the Expedition, it being necessary to furnish more and thereby incuring the unpleasantness of having the public judging the labors of the Expedition by such mangled documents, when it is unfair to criticize our work until my extended and official report is before them. Yet as the discovery of the gold is most likely to be made of practical use to the colony immediately, and the most minute particulars are reasonably enough desired, I have instructed Mr. Meade to draw out a formal account (enclosure B) of the particulars of the prospecting, and at the same time forward (enclosure C) an extract from Mr. McDonald's journal on the same subject. Messrs. Foley and Battle at present in Victoria will furnish you with the fullest particulars regarding the part they took in the discovery.

2. These documents are so complete that it is almost unnecessary to supplement them with any explanations. It appears that they found good prospects for several miles above the cañon of Sooke river. After passing Leech river on the left, they found the prospects to decrease, and naturally concluded that the gold came by way of that stream, and that it could be expected from the right bank of the cañon. Mr. McDonald's journal on the same subject, and the particulars as narrated in my letter (July 17th); subsequently the expedition found the still richer prospects of Leech river. These they brought over to Cowichan Harbor, and were sent by me to you with the account of their extent, &c. (Despatch No. 4.) This will account for some seeming discrepancy in our accounts. The reports of Messrs. Leech, Meade and McDonald, agree on all points of any moment, and differ in no particulars but what should be expected from the different views taken of the same subject by different men, and the fulness or shortness of their statements.

I hear that parties are already starting for the mines, and I assure you we sincerely wish them all success. Doubtless many will be disappointed (as in all such cases) disappointed, but the gold is there whether they take it or not. I enclose a small sketch of the gold district, which may be of some assistance in finding the locality. This, with the gold specimens you will find, exhibit in some public place for the information of the adventurers.

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Mr. Foley and party returned to camp on Thursday evening, bringing very rich prospects with them. They have called the stream Leech River.

The prospects on Leech River ranged from 3 cents to 1 dollar, the average being 12 1/2 cents to the pan.

While Mr. Foley was away I shifted camp to a point shown on sketch as camp 20, about 4 miles further up the Lake than camp 19; we only remained in camp 20 one day for the cook's fire having spread the woods for about 200 feet and we were obliged to move camp to a small island in the Lake.

On Wednesday the 20th, Battle and Lewis ascended a mountain and obtained some very important bearings. Battle brought down a beautiful specimen of quartz crystal.

On Friday the 22d, we went ashore on the N. W. side of the Lake and constructed a good raft to take us to the head of the Lake, a distance of about 6 miles. That night I was so unfortunate as to meet with an accident; a prospect pan full of fire was standing at the door of my tent for the purpose of keeping away the mosquitoes, and as I was coming out of the tent after dark I trod on the edge of the pan and capsized the fire over my foot.

On Saturday the 23d we struck tents at 7 a.m., and started for the head of the lake, which we reached at 5 p.m.

Sooke Lake is about 14 miles long, and is about 250 feet above the level of the sea, it is full of salmon trout.

A small stream flows into the lake at a point about 1 mile from camp No. 21, it flows through a valley which bears N.W. from its mouth on the lake. On the left hand side near the outlet is a very prominent mountain, which we named in honor of the commander, Mount Brown. This valley seems to contain good soil. The opening seems to extend for about one mile along the margin of the lake. Timber burnt—cedar, silver pine, &c.

Sunday 24th. Foley and McDonald went to eastern end of lake for the purpose of ascertaining whether the river flowed in. Sooke Lake lies SW of Shawnigan, a distance of 6 miles. One route is blazed, crossed Shawnigan Lake, and crossed Victoria-Cowichan trail at 24th mile post. Camped there on Monday the 25th. Next day struck tents at 7 a.m., and reached Cowichan that night.

I am, Sir, your obedient serv't,  
T. LEECH.

ENCLOSURE B.  
V. I. EXPLORING EXPEDITION,  
By whom were Mr. Leech's observations.

Camp No. 25, July 29, '64.  
Sir,—I have the honor to report for your information as follows, accompanied with a sketch map of Sooke and Leech rivers.

July 14th. Went with Mr. Foley to prospect the river above the cañon. I have seen the prospects of excellent looking gold ranging from 5 to 6 cents per pan on an average of 25 pans. There is plenty of pay dirt all along the old bed of the river. We washed nine pans this forenoon, and in some places got 10 cents. These were taken off the bed-rock (slate), but trying the banks and under boulders got what I have stated. With a rocker a man could make from \$5 to \$10 a day. Went out in the afternoon—washed eight pans which gave on an average 12 cents it will pay to work along this part of the river as far back as 20 to 30 feet from the bank. It is certain that a man could earn good wages in the summer months, having all the proper tools to work with—a crowbar to remove boulders, a pick, a shovel and a rocker. These would enable a miner to turn the gold out at a much higher mark than we have done. The Indians that are packing for us say that coal is to be found two miles from our camp towards Sooke, but it is too late in the afternoon to go there, and Mr. Leech does not think it advisable to stop the party another day to act on their information. They say they forgot to tell us about it when we passed by that part of the country yesterday. They also say that two men stopped in a house about 1 1/2 miles from here towards Sooke, and that they found gold in good quantity up a stream which flows into the Sooke river near that place. (These two men are said to have been murdered by the Chilcats on the Butte Inlet Road.)

Friday 15th.—At 1 mile from camp passed through old bed of the river for a quarter of a mile, but did not prospect it. Two and a-half miles from camp, prospected the bed of the river hurriedly and got 4 cents; coarse gold, but believe that it would average as much as yesterday. Prospected another place and found the same. Properly speaking these prospects were not on the old bed of the river, but on both sides. Sand, drift wood, and other indications so high as 20 feet, and in some places 30 feet above the present river bed. It is evident the water must have been up to that height at some time, probably every winter, or in the rainy season, and it has deposited gold far back from the present level. Foley went up the river a few hundred yards from this camp (No. 18, main) and got a prospect of 20 cents to the pan, about 26 feet above the level of the sea.

16th July.—Prospected the river near the lake, and to our astonishment did not get more than four cents to the pan; but the back country is flat, and the gold scattered from Sooke Inlet to this camp. A good male trail could be constructed at a comparatively trifling expense. Our first day's travel passed through a flat country, with very little fallen timber; then for two miles over hills and rocks, with plateaus between, which are quite level, and well adapted for packing over; the third day through an undulating country, with a great quantity of fallen timber. The principal difficulty would be the removing the fallen timber for three or four miles. I am, however, only speaking of it at the present level of the river. Game abundant along the route.

17th July.—Three Indians returned, and by them Lieut. Leech wrote to Dr. Brown, enclosing prospects up to date.

18th July.—Finding the gold decrease, and the larger body of the water branching off to the left (Leech's river) R. McDonald, Antonio, and myself, under charge of J. M. Foley, proceeded to prospect that river.

Prospects much the same as at camp No. 17—paying from six to eight cents to the pan. There is some doubt but that the principal gold falls into Sooke river from this branch, as the gold is much the same, and we did not get any good prospects between the Forks and Sooke Lake.

19th July, (detached camp No. 2)—Prospected river in several places, and in each place got good quality of coarse gold varying

from six cents to the pan. In as much as seventy-five cents, and our means of transit being so poor could not be expected to have. Much slate rock intermixed with coarse color.

21st July.—Proceed, after prospecting most satisfactorily, to Cañon Lieut. Leech's party. Leech divided into two forks, and on the prospects ranged from five dollars, of good coarse gold, and have done better with a pick, the diggings are, you can guess tools we had were a shovel, bowie knife! Reached camp, companions newly burnt out, a huge mass of sand in the lake, a "ration island." \* \* \*

What follows in my journal, re work. Respectfully submitted, Lieut. Leech.

ENCLOSURE C.  
DONALD referring to the gold of Sooke and Leech Rivers.

13th.—The Commander and I started for Victoria to-day on a boat of much moment to us, the re-charge of Lieut. Leech's journal. We had four Indians with us; where they were getting here for the Victoria-tour; this was up the River. Crossed the B.C. side after passing a deserted but proceeded two miles from the general course N.N.W., distance miles. The range of mountainous mountains is called by the natives the "two packers," the Sooke village bears about that next range is called by them Pa-ta at the bottom is a small lake, lying W.S.W. and E. N.E., it is trami bounding the lake N. led Co-oo-a-witch; a high ched) bears W.N.W. The lake the River is said to rise in all Co-oo-a-witch. The great Cañon about W.N.W. the post at Sooke Bay is S. by E. the N. by W. This camp by the small anoroid is 1200 feet above the sea.

N. B.—These observations by whom were Mr. Leech's observations.

14th July.—Prospected the banks of the river, times as much as 20 cents. Sixty \$1 20; average about 71 cents. They were with us that they forgo place where coal exists, and which is on a creek on the left (ending) above the Bark Encampment. Camped at the Falls Encampment. The stream is very narrow, as the cañon is very narrow.

15th July.—Up river; good gold and prospects. Large quantities of gold; coarse about N.N.W. a fork of two rivers, the larger Westward; the stream which we formed a question of the water river.

16th July.—Followed up again stream and in a mile reached camp. 18th July.—Mr. Leech despatched Mr. Whymer to prospect the mountain on the 15th July to examine the same. Left the main lake about 8 a.m.; reached fork of the river about 10 a.m. "The Forks"; we named it sub-master's approval "Leech River" each bank as we passed, wherever we tried. The river compass due West as far as washed boulders are in bed of a series of small benches. Traveled about 6 miles.

19th July.—Up Leech river, and in a mile reached camp. 20th July.—Cashed our blankets, camp, so as to be enough weight, and started prospecting usual way with miners—from the back—but felt the want of most part of the contents of Mission \$1 and we would have got a pick. Mead and Antonio went to prospect the mountain on the 15th July to examine the same. Left the main lake about 8 a.m.; reached fork of the river about 10 a.m. "The Forks"; we named it sub-master's approval "Leech River" each bank as we passed, wherever we tried. The river compass due West as far as washed boulders are in bed of a series of small benches. Traveled about 6 miles.

from six cents to the pan. In as much as seventy-five cents, and our means of transit being so poor could not be expected to have. Much slate rock intermixed with coarse color.

21st July.—Proceed, after prospecting most satisfactorily, to Cañon Lieut. Leech's party. Leech divided into two forks, and on the prospects ranged from five dollars, of good coarse gold, and have done better with a pick, the diggings are, you can guess tools we had were a shovel, bowie knife! Reached camp, companions newly burnt out, a huge mass of sand in the lake, a "ration island." \* \* \*

What follows in my journal, re work. Respectfully submitted, Lieut. Leech.

ENCLOSURE C.  
DONALD referring to the gold of Sooke and Leech Rivers.

13th.—The Commander and I started for Victoria to-day on a boat of much moment to us, the re-charge of Lieut. Leech's journal. We had four Indians with us; where they were getting here for the Victoria-tour; this was up the River. Crossed the B.C. side after passing a deserted but proceeded two miles from the general course N.N.W., distance miles. The range of mountainous mountains is called by the natives the "two packers," the Sooke village bears about that next range is called by them Pa-ta at the bottom is a small lake, lying W.S.W. and E. N.E., it is trami bounding the lake N. led Co-oo-a-witch; a high ched) bears W.N.W. The lake the River is said to rise in all Co-oo-a-witch. The great Cañon about W.N.W. the post at Sooke Bay is S. by E. the N. by W. This camp by the small anoroid is 1200 feet above the sea.

N. B.—These observations by whom were Mr. Leech's observations.

14th July.—Prospected the banks of the river, times as much as 20 cents. Sixty \$1 20; average about 71 cents. They were with us that they forgo place where coal exists, and which is on a creek on the left (ending) above the Bark Encampment. Camped at the Falls Encampment. The stream is very narrow, as the cañon is very narrow.

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